



Plattsburgh, New York

Donald M. Kasprzak, Mayor

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The Mayor's 2014 City of Plattsburgh budget was as difficult as each city budget since 2007 has been during my tenure as mayor. Retirement, health care, employee benefit, and personnel costs and the 2012 generous fire union contract binding arbitration decision directly contributed to the proposed 2014 tax rate increase. These factors also directly impacted the use and levels of our fund balance, retirement reserve, and future capital project expenditures. Despite all of these challenges, the Mayor's 2014 budget will not exceed the Albany legislative imposed Tax Cap this year.

The 2014 tax rate will be 10.5942, a decrease of 1.5% and the 2014 tax levy will be \$9,877,470, an increase of 2.3%. While I understand any tax increase affects each and every city resident and business owner, to maintain the level of services the taxpayers expect and deserve this increase is necessary in 2014. My budget, however, does not include increases in the city water, sewer, garbage, or electric rates for 2014.

There will be a scheduled Public Hearing to receive public comments on the Mayor's 2014 budget at 5 PM in the Common Council Chambers, 41 City Hall Place on October 10, 2013.

The present and newly elected Common Council members and newly elected mayor will be holding budget meetings to review and adjust the Mayor's 2014 budget throughout the fall of 2013. Budget Officer and Councilor Jim Calnon will release this budget meeting schedule in the near future. The 2014 city budget must be enacted no later than January 9, 2014 according to the Plattsburgh City Charter.

I want to personally thank and truly appreciate the Budget Committee members Jim Calnon and Chris Jackson, City Chamberlain Richard Marks, Deputy Chamberlain Carole Garcia and the cooperating Department Heads for all of their efforts.

Mayor Donald M. Kasprzak